

Submitter: Marcilynn Burke

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1543

Dear Senators:

I write to express University of Oregon School of Law's strong support for SB 1543. The Universal Representation Program fills a critical access-to-justice need within our state as it seeks to ensure the due process rights of vulnerable members of Oregon's immigrant communities are protected. Through the public fellowship program, it also creates a pipeline of highly qualified and effective lawyers who are prepared to serve the needs of immigrant communities throughout their careers.

We are proud to work in partnership with our colleagues from Oregon's other two law schools to develop and implement the innovative fellowship component that is part of SB 1543. The twelve community-based attorneys will work directly with the community members they serve, providing critical legal services. Given the number of law school applicants interested in public interest and immigration work, we believe this innovative program will also serve as a recruitment tool for top talent in Oregon, particularly those students who come from communities historically under-represented in the practice of law.

It is our sincere hope that the bill passes during this session. The need is urgent. On top of ensuring that the 1,100 community members currently receiving representation do not lose it this summer, more than 2,000 additional Oregonians would receive critical legal services if you pass this bill.

Thank you for considering our institutional support of this bill. For your records, I will submit separately a copy of my letter dated March 10, 2021, to Mr. Stephen Manning, which further outlines our institutional support for this initiative.

Best,

Dean Burke

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